

sources of water supply and decrease its current dependence on a single source. Through the establishment of a stabilized source, SDCWA seeks to pay a fair, competitive price for its water supply and in the process lessen increased demand for water for southern California from the State Water Project.

A water transfer from IID to SDCWA is a key element of the "California 4.4 Plan" which is being developed by the Colorado River Board of California and the California State Department of Water Resources, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior and the other Colorado River basin states. This Plan is intended to address the need for California to reduce its reliance on Colorado River water to its legal entitlement of 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water. California currently is diverting approximately 5.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water per year.

Implementation of the proposed project will require certain state approvals, including approval by the State Water Resources Control Board and compliance with CEQA and the California Endangered Species Act. Implementation will also require certain federal approvals, including approval of the proposed transfer between IID and SDCWA, compliance with NEPA, the federal Endangered Species Act and other related federal environmental laws, statutes, Executive Orders, and regulations. Reclamation will act as the federal lead agency pursuant to NEPA because certain actions taken to facilitate the transfer will require approval by the Secretary of the Interior. Such actions could potentially include amendments to IID's contract with the Secretary, change in the point of diversion of Colorado River water, change in type of use, change in place of use, verification or concurrence in the amount of water conserved by this Project, and verification of beneficial use of Colorado River water. Reclamation is therefore seeking comments from the public on the scope of the issues and extent of analysis that should be evaluated in the EIR/EIS.

Additional information can be obtained from the project website at <http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb>.

Alternatives

The EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply and transfer alternatives, and various alternative measures in addition to the No Project/No Action Alternative.

Potential water supply alternatives that will be considered in the EIR/EIS include the following:

- Additional water conservation in the San Diego service area
- Additional water repurification and recycling
- Desalination
- Additional water transfers from Northern California
- Transfer of water conserved in another agricultural region with conveyance through the State Water Project and Metropolitan Water District system

Potential Environmental Effects

The full range of environmental impacts has not been quantified temporally and spatially. Until specific conservation alternatives have been developed, potential environmental effects could include the following:

Lower Colorado River Area

- Reduction in Colorado River water flows between Parker and Imperial Dams
- Impacts to Colorado River water quality
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Cumulative impacts to water quality

San Diego County

- Growth-inducing impacts
- Salton Sea
- Effects on water levels, salinity, and water quality
- Effects on fisheries habitat
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Impacts to recreational uses

Imperial Valley

- Impacts to water flow and quality
- Effects on selenium, boron, and pesticide concentrations
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Socio-economic impacts
- Air quality impacts

The draft EIR/EIS is expected to be completed by a target date of April 3, 2000. Availability of the draft EIR/EIS for public review and comment will be announced and noticed in the local media and by a **Federal Register** Notice.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

Steven Richardson,

Chief of Staff, Bureau of Reclamation.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 731-TA-25 (Review)]

Anhydrous Sodium Metasilicate From France

Determination

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject five-year review, the United States International Trade Commission determines, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)) (the Act), that revocation of the antidumping duty order on anhydrous sodium metasilicate from France would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.²

Background

The Commission instituted this review on October 1, 1998 (63 FR 52748) and determined on January 7, 1999 that it would conduct a full review (64 FR 4892, February 1, 1999). Notice of the scheduling of the Commission's review and of a public hearing to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, and by publishing the notice in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 1999 (64 FR 10315). The hearing was held in Washington, DC, on July 21, 1999, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission transmitted its determination in this investigation to the Secretary of Commerce on September 20, 1999. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 3235 (September 1999), entitled *Anhydrous Sodium Metasilicate from France: Investigation No. 731-TA-25 (Review)*.

Issued: September 21, 1999.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.

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¹ The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR § 207.2(f)).

² Commissioner Askey dissented.